

Demerit Policy

Demerits are a form of discipline utilized by this marching band. You can receive them for several reasons:

Tardiness - Excuses for tardiness will not be accepted. If you are late because of some unforeseen reason that is not your fault, you will still need to serve a demerit after that practice. The procedure for being tardy is for you to report to the drum major or drum major podium upon arrival so you can be marked present. See Mr. Otto after practice about why you were late.

Improper Dress - All school rules apply to the clothing worn to marching band. This also includes wearing the wrong footwear or rehearsal attire. Students will wear white ball caps and loose fitting clothing to practice.

Gum - There will be “zero tolerance” towards gum. We don’t want it left in the music suite and proper breath control for playing your instrument cannot be accomplished when you are chewing gum. **Gum is not permitted in the stadium—this is school policy.**

Music - You must have all of your music during practice. We will always be learning new songs from your folder, so have it handy.

Instrument - Unless otherwise noted, always bring your instrument to practice.

Disrespect - This is the most severe demerit you can receive. The band director will be notified by the “drum major” about anyone receiving this demerit. Always try to treat others as you want to be treated.

Talking - Talking will not be tolerated while at attention or when being addressed by staff members. Bands that talk do not usually rehearse well and do not earn superior ratings.

Missing equipment and/or Instrument - Every band member must have his or her instrument, drill and music binder at each rehearsal.

Memorization - The band director or section leader will give you a date when each song and drill movement must be memorized. If it is not, then a demerit will be issued that day. Another demerit will be issued the next day if the music still has not been memorized.

Sectionals - Extra sectionals may be announced from time to time. Ample lead-time will be given to allow members to adjust their schedules. A demerit will be issued for skipping. If you can't make an extra sectional called by a section leader, clear permission to be absent ahead of time from a director.

Missed “setup or tear down” assignments - Each section is assigned a duty for each practice. This assignment is posted. Sometimes you will setup or tear down a practice. If you leave prior to finishing your assignment you will receive a demerit.

Directors’ Demerit - Usually issued for horseplay and the like, you do not want to be singled out for a directors’ demerit.

Serving Demerits

All marching bandmen who break the rules will receive a warning for the first offense of the day.

The second time the same rule is broken; bandmen will be required to do 10 pushups on the spot. If the behavior is still not corrected the student will be given a demerit.

When you receive a demerit you are required to stay after practice that day (usually 15 to 20 minutes) in which time you will be required to do any or all of the following:

Playing test, Marching fundamentals, Cleaning and Organizing the band room, Carrying equipment back to the band room. You must serve the demerit the day you receive it. "Work" or "my parents have to get going" are not excuses. If you know you have to get going after practice, don't get a demerit!!

Consequences of Demerits

If you receive three demerits in one week, you will not have a third quarter break at the football game. If you have four demerits in one week, not only you will not have a third quarter break, you will clean the band room after the game and Mr. Otto will contact your parents. If you receive ten or more demerits, a conference will be held with your parents and you may subsequently be removed from the band class.